

Lysistrata Coming to SWOSU This Week

11.13.2006

Southwestern Oklahoma State University will present its production of Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* this Thursday, November 16, through Saturday, November 18, at 7:30 p.m. nightly in the Old Science Auditorium on the Weatherford campus.

Ciera Musick teases Eddie Gonzales during a scene from *Lysistrata* that is being staged November 16-18 at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. The comedy, which is rated PG-13, revolves around the theme of ending a war. Starting time each evening is 7:30 p.m. in the Old Science Building Auditorium. Admission to the production is \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for non-SWOSU students, and free for individuals with an SWOSU ID.

Aristophanes wrote *Lysistrata* in 411 BC as an outcry against the Peloponnesian War which, at that specific time, had been active for 20 years. The war did not end for another seven years. In *Lysistrata*, Aristophanes quickly introduces the audience to the title character as she reveals her plot to the women of Greece. Her plan is that the woman will conduct a sex strike against their husbands until the men agree to end the war.

"When we decided to produce this play on the SWOSU campus, I began to think about the timelessness of war," SWOSU Director Steve Strickler said. "As one looks all the way back to 411 BC, countless wars have occurred since then. That thought became the concept I presented to our production team. I decided that I somehow wanted to represent the 'timelessness' of war in our production."

Ladies of *Lysistrata* take an oath during the comedy that is being staged at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford this Thursday, November 16, through Saturday, November 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Old Science Building Auditorium on the Weatherford campus. Admission to the production is \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for non-SWOSU students, and free for individuals with an SWOSU ID. The production is rated PG-13.

Strickler said the SWOSU production displays many representations, through the various production elements, of war through the ages. Each costume seen will represent a different war from the Peloponnesian War of 431 BC through the Iraq War of 2006. The set depicts war through various monuments. Layered within the Acropolis of Ancient Greece are representations of the monuments honoring World War I, Korea, Vietnam, and Iran-Iraq. Sound will take the listener through the various eras as well.

Even though the play is a comedy, Strickler said they wanted to keep the original intent of the playwright intact by overlaying the production with the very serious, very real, projections of war images.

"We carry forward the theme which Aristophanes made so clear – 'make love, not war.'" Strickler said. "It is based on the modern Western notion that people of all nations ought to live together in peace!"

Admission to the production is \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for non-SWOSU students, and free for individuals with an SWOSU ID. Because of the nature of the material included in the script, the production has been rated PG-13; there is material that may be objectionable to some.

For more information, please contact 580.774.3240.